



# NEWS RELEASE

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **GREGG COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG AND FIREARM CHARGES**

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a Gregg County man has pleaded guilty to federal drug and firearm violation charges in the Eastern District of Texas. **STEVEN MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ**, 22, from Longview, admitted to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and use and carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime before United States Magistrate Judge John D. Love.

According to information presented in court, an investigation began in January of 2003 into the distribution of "ice" methamphetamine in East Texas. During this time, the investigation resulted in the arrest of 7 individuals. A 14-count federal superseding indictment was returned in January of 2005 charging Rodriguez and 6 co-defendants with federal charges. All defendants have agreed to enter guilty pleas.

At sentencing, Rodriguez faces up to 20 years imprisonment and a fine up to \$1 million. Rodriguez also faces an additional 5 years for the firearms charge and has agreed to forfeit all handguns. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Gregg County Sheriff's Office and the Gregg County CODE Unit. This

case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard Moore.

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